and a written test was conducted again on 4th April, 1999. The qualified candidates were interviewed on 29th April, 1999 and five posts of Jr. Accounts Assistants were filled in during May, 1999. There has, therefore, been no anomaly as such.

Cases against LPG and Petrol Pump Agents

378. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any cases, where LPG agents, or petrol pump owners have given false information while getting the agency;

(b) if so, the number of such cases during last three years, year-wise; and

(c) what action has been taken against the defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) During the last three years (i.e. 1996-97, 1997-98 and 1998-99) there were 5 cases in retail outlets and 5 cases in LPG distributorships where it was established that dealerships/Distributorships were obtained by furnishing false information. Yearwise details are given below:—

	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99
RO	2	1	2
LPG	1	3	1

All the above dealerships/distributorships have since been terminated.

Availability of Natural Gas in Tripura for industrial users

379. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of natural gas available in Tripura for allotment of industrial use;

(b) how much quantity, sector-wise, had been allotted among the industrial users so far; and

(c) the details of applications pending for additional allotment of gas in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) The present availability of natural gas in Tripura is 2.83 Million Standard Cubic Metres Per Day (MMSCMD).

(b) The total allocation of natural gas in Tripura is 1.7962 MMSCMD. Out of this, 1.650 MMSCMD is for Power Sector, 0.1302 MMSCMD for domestic & small scale industries and 0.016 for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG).

(c) M/s Guascor India Private Ltd. have recently applied for new allocation of 0.075 MMSCMD of gas for its Power Plant proposed to be set up in Tripura.

Adulteration in Petroleum Products

380. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch a special mission to root out adulteration in diesel and other petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the adulteration in diesel, petrol or in other petroleum products have been increasing day by day; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to provide petroleum products free from adulteration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (d) Oil marketing companies carry out regular/surprise checks of retail outlets, to control various malpractices including adulteration. In addition, special drives are launched by the oil companies both on their own and also under direction of Government from time to time to check malpractices. The prevent adulteration various steps like blue dyeing of kerosene (PDS), furfural doping, filter paper test, stock reconciliation, checking of retail outlets by mobile laboratories, etc. are taken by oil companies.

Study on reserves for Joint Ventures

381. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that reserve for most of the joint venture oil fields have been doubled or tripled after going in to the hands of private operators; and

(b) who conducted the study on the reserves earlier and now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) Reserves of some of the fields awarded to Joint Venture (JV) companies have increased while these have decreased in case of some other fields.

(b) The reserves before the award of these fields were assessed by the National oil companies, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL). At present, reserves of JV fields are assessed by operators and reviewed by Director General of Hydrocarbons in consultation with them.